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Centering the Periphery: Globalization and Identity in the African Diaspora

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**Call for Papers
Centering the Periphery:
Globalization and Identity in the African Diaspora**

**Announcement posted
at http://www.aaas.uncc.edu/Diaspora_Conference_2006.htm.**

Conference Date: April 5-8, 2006.

CFP Deadline: February 1, 2006.

Location: Westin Hotel, Charlotte, North Carolina.

Sponsored by the Department of Africana Studies at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte.

Scholars and researchers, please join the Department of Africana Studies at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte for a stimulating exploration of the past, present, and future of the African Diaspora. Seen as perhaps the quintessential global periphery, Africa and its Diaspora stand at the center of this conference. We hope to generate new perspectives toward these areas by encouraging scholarship that interrogates the Diaspora's role in broad historical and sociological trends, innovations in literature, music, and art, and geopolitical developments.

We seek papers that grapple with the complexities of identity and community among African-descended peoples throughout the Diaspora and on the continent itself. We also intend to spur debate about the analytical utility of terms such as "Diaspora" and "globalization." To what extent, for instance, can the process(es) of Diaspora help us understand the centuries-old but recently accelerated phenomenon of globalization? This conference seeks to engage the community of scholars of various regions and epistemologies of the Diaspora in discussions regarding the centering, re-imaging and transnationalizing of Africana-related theories, concepts and ideas.

We hope to facilitate the gathering and interaction of the largest number of Africa and African Diaspora specialists as well as generalists and focus on the most pressing existential, ideological, and intellectual issues affecting the Black World across time and space.

The conference committee welcomes submissions of individual papers and greatly encourages pre-arranged panels. Scholarly roundtable discussions are also encouraged but will require extended review from the program committee

to ensure these fit a wide range of research interests. The conference committee seeks research examining a broad spectrum of disciplines targeting the Diaspora. Disciplines may include, but are not limited to -- Africana Studies, African American Studies, Ethnic Studies, Latina/o Studies, Latin American Studies, Caribbean Studies, Chicano Studies, anthropology, archeology, architecture, art, communication, dance, film, health & health care, history, literature, linguistics, music, political science, religion, sociology, theatre, women's studies, rural and urban studies. Interested participants should submit proposals/abstracts of 150-200 words for papers and a brief resume. Panel submissions require proposals/abstracts (150-200 words) and resumes of each individual paper and a brief overview of the goals of the panel. Roundtable submissions require detailed bios highlighting the expertise of the proposed participating scholars and a detailed description (150-200 words) of the roundtable.

Submissions should be sent by mail or email to:
c/o Ms. Elsie Byrd, Office Manager
Dr. Robert S. Smith, Asst. Professor
Department of Africana Studies, Macy Building 204A
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9201 University City Boulevard
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Deadline for Submissions is Feb. 1, 2006.